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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
LY, ANH	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2162	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/927,096	CHUA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anh Ly	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 March 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *6* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5 and 7-36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is response to Applicants' AMENDMENT and RCE filed on 03/01/2007.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

2. The request filed on 03/01/2007 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/927,096 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

3. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

4. Claims 1-5 and 7-36 are pending in this Application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claims 1-5 and 13-36 are "computer-readable medium" in which the medium is communication media that may typically be embodied by computer instructions ... or other data in a modulated data signal such as a carrier wave ... and wired media such as acoustic, RF, infrared and other wireless media (see instant specification's page 5, lines 10-21 or section 0020 in Pub. No.: US 2002/0049756 A1). The computer-readable medium does not fall within the 4 statutory categories.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 1-3, 6, 7-10, 13-16, 18-20, 21- 22, 24-28, 29, and 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent No.: US 7,058,626 B1 issued to Pan et al. (hereinafter Pan) in view of Patent No.: US 6,327,590 B1 issued to Chidlovskii et al. (hereinafter Chidlovskii).

With respect to claim 1, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components (figs. 1, 2 and 3), comprising:

a search engine manager configured to receive a search query from a client and to translate the search query to a standard query, wherein the standard query is universally formatted for a plurality of search engines registered with the search engine

manager, and to communicate the standard query from the search engine manager to each of the plurality of search engines registered with the search engine manager (fig. 4 (item 401) and fig. 2: a plurality of search engines (fig. 4, item 402) - receiving user input the query and then translate user input into a language that the search engines can accept and construct query command: col. 3, lines 40-45 and col. 4, lines 15-67 and col. 5, lines 1-5);and

each of the search engines translates the standard query to a native format query of a registered search engines associated with a registered search engines, wherein each of the search engine translates the standard query into a different native format, and to communicate the native format query to the registered search engine being further configured to return results from the registered search engine to the search engine manager (every search engine uses a dedicated language or different native format language and translating the query into a native format to communicate with the respective search engine: fig. 4, col. 8, lines 30-67 and col. 11, lines 1-25).

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associate with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach search engine wrapper.

However, Chidlovskii teaches search query for information retrieval system and a meta-searcher as a wrapper (abstract and col. 1, lines 40-62 and col. 4, lines 42-67 and col. 5, lines 1-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of

Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claims 2-3, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium as discussed in claim 1. Also, Pan teaches a client interface or GUI configured to allow to enter search query to the search engine (figs. 6 and 8, col. 4 and 10; GUI for receiving the client's query col. 14, lines 5-40).

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach a wrapper interface configured to provide the standard query to the search engine wrapper and a search engine interface configured to allow the search engine wrapper to communicate with the registered search engine in the native format of the registered search engine.

However, Chidlovskii teaches a wrapper to be used for transforming the query into a representation that is used by the application (col. 5, lines 8-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize

the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claim 7, Pan teaches a computer-implemented method for communicating between a client and a plurality of search engines in a distributed processing system (figs. 1, 2 and 3), comprising the step of:

receiving a search query having a plurality of search parameters, the search query being generated by a search client (fig. 1-4 and items 401 and 402 in fig. 4);

building a standard query from the search query (fig. 4, item 404);

issuing the standard query to each of the plurality of search engines (fig. 4, item 405);

receiving the standard query at each of the plurality of search engines (fig. 4, items 404 and 405col. 11, lines 5-45)

at each of the plurality of search engines, translating the standard query to a native format query for a search engine associated with the search engine, wherein the native format query is unique to the search engine (every search engine uses a dedicated language or different native format language and translating the query into a

native format to communicate with the respective search engine: fig. 4, col. 8, lines 30-67 and col. 11, lines 1-25);

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach search engine wrappers.

However, Chidlovskii teaches a wrapper to be used for transforming the query into a representation that is used by the application (col. 5, lines 8-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claims 8-10, Pan teaches a computer-implemented method for communicating between a client and a plurality of search engines as discussed in claim 7.

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with

each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach search engine wrappers.

However, Chidlovskii teaches a wrapper to be used for transforming the query into a representation that is used by the application (col. 5, lines 8-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claim 13, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps (see figs. 1-4), comprising:

registering a search engine to provide searching capabilities (figs. 4-5; abstract and col. 7, lines 22-32);

receiving, at a search engine manager, a client query from a client (figs. 1-2; col. 6, lines 55-67 and col. 7, lines 62-67 and col. 8, lines 1-40);

building a standard query from the client query received from the client (figs. 4, item 404);

passing the standard query from he search engine manager associated with the registered search engine (fig. 4, item 405);

translating the standard query to a translated query in a native format of the registered search engine, wherein each of the translated the standard query into a different native format (abstract, fig. 4, item 403 and every search engine uses a dedicated language or different native format language and translating the query into a native format to communicate with the respective search engine: fig. 4, col. 8, lines 30-67 and col. 11, lines 1-25);

transmitting the translated query to the registered search engine (every search engine uses a dedicated language or different native format language and translating the query into a native format to communicate with the respective search engine: fig. 4, col. 8, lines 30-67 and col. 11, lines 1-25 and item 405 in fig. 4); and

receiving results of the translated query from the registered search engine (item 406 in fig. 4).

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach a plurality of wrappers, wherein each of plurality of wrappers is associated with a different registered search engine and search engine wrappers.

However, Chidlovskii teaches a wrapper to be used for transforming the query into a representation that is used by the application (col. 5, lines 8-67) and search query

for information retrieval system and a meta-searcher as a wrapper (abstract and col. 1, lines 40-62 and col. 4, lines 42-67 and col. 5, lines 1-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claim 14, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium as discussed in claim 13.

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach an associated wrapper with a common registration service.

However, Chidlovskii teaches a wrapper to be used for transforming the query into a representation that is used by the application (col. 5, lines 8-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize

the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claims 15-16 and 20, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium as discussed in claim 13.

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach a wrapper ID that uniquely identifies the associated wrapper, and storing other information, in a database associated with the common registration service; and a multiplicity of wrappers associated with other search engines to receive the standard query.

However, Chidlovskii teaches a wrapper to be used for transforming the query into a representation that is used by the application (col. 4, lines 15-54, col. 5, lines 8-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the

system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claim 18, Pan teaches wherein building the standard query further comprises combining, by a query generation module, the client query with other parameters received from the client (figs 1-5 and 8).

With respect to claim 19, Pan teaches wherein translating the standard query further comprises transforming the standard query to the native format of the search engine through the use of a translation module (every search engine uses a dedicated language or different native format language and translating the query into a native format to communicate with the respective search engine: fig. 4, col. 8, lines 30-67 and col. 11, lines 1-25).

With respect to claim 21, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps (figs.1-5), comprising:

discovering at least one search engine registered with a search system, receiving a query initiated by a client accessing the search system, building a standard query from the query initiated by the client, transmitting the standard query and to translate the standard query to a native format query associated with the at least one search engine registered with the search system, requesting a response from the at least one search engine wrapper the response including a progress update for the standard query as it is executed and the results of the standard query; and receiving the response (figs. 1-5

and 7: every search engine uses a dedicated language or different native format language and translating the query into a native format to communicate with the respective search engine: fig. 4, col. 8, lines 30-67 and col. 11, lines 1-25).

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach search engine wrapper.

However, Chidlovskii teaches search query for information retrieval system and a meta-searcher as a wrapper (abstract and col. 1, lines 40-62 and col. 4, lines 42-67 and col. 5, lines 1-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claim 22, Pan teaches wherein discovering at least one search engine registered with the search system further comprises accessing a search engine store to retrieve identification information for the at least one search

engine registered with the search system (abstract, col. 4, lines 18-67).

With respect to claims 24-25, and 28, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium as discussed in claim 21.

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach search engine wrapper.

However, Chidlovskii teaches a wrapper to be used for transforming the query into a representation that is used by the application (col. 4, lines 15-54, col. 5, lines 8-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claim 26, Pan teaches wherein the response received indicates that the standard query is complete (abstract, and figs. 4-5).

With respect to claim 27, Pan teaches wherein the response received indicates that the standard query failed because a time limit for receiving a response is exceeded (fig. 4-5 and 7).

With respect to claim 29, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps (figs. 1-5), comprising:

receiving a standard query from a search engine manager; translating the standard query into a native format query; transmitting the native format query associated with the at least one search engine to at least one search engine; transmitting a progress update to the search engine manager for the standard query as it is executed; receiving results from the at least one search engine; and transmitting the results received from the at least one search engine to the search engine manager (figs. 1-5 and 7: every search engine uses a dedicated language or different native format language and translating the query into a native format to communicate with the respective search engine: fig. 4, col. 8, lines 30-67 and col. 11, lines 1-25; see abstract, col. 4, lines 18-40; see fig. 6 and col. 14, lines 5-40 and col. 15, lines 5-25).

Pan teaches receiving an original query request from a user and then translates this query into a standard query to associated with a dedicated language going with each of search engines in the system. Pan does not clearly teach search engine wrapper.

However, Chidlovskii teaches search query for information retrieval system and a meta-searcher as a wrapper (abstract and col. 1, lines 40-62 and col. 4, lines 42-67 and col. 5, lines 1-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of search query and meta-searcher wrapper for performing a search/retrieving the results as disclosed (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30), into the system of Pan for the purpose of assisting the user in refining or narrowing his/her search query, therefore, the search result has been properly narrowed significant problem in information retrieval is how to rank the results (Chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 30-40).

With respect to claim 31, Pan teaches wherein translating the standard query into a native format query further comprises using a translation module (abstract and col. 8, lines 48-60).

With respect to claim 32, Pan teaches wherein the native format query is different for each of the search engines when multiple search engines are used (abstract and col. 4, lines 42-67 and col. 5, lines 1-15).

With respect to claim 33, Pan teaches wherein transmitting the native format query further comprises dynamically altering parameters of the native format query according to the search engine (col. 5, lines 16-55 and col. 8, lines 42-58).

With respect to claim 34, Pan teaches wherein transmitting a progress update further comprises transmitting an identification parameter for identifying the at least one search engine (abstract, col. 4, lines 18-40, see fig. 6, col. 14, lines 5-40).

With respect to claim 35, Pan teaches wherein the at least one search engine is stopped from continuing to execute the native format query when a time limit for receiving a response is exceeded (col. 5, lines 16-55 and col. 8, lines 42-58).

With respect to claim 36, Pan teaches wherein transmitting the results received from the at least one search engine further comprises transmitting the results in response to a request for the results from the search engine manager (col. 5, lines 16-55 and col. 8, lines 42-58).

10. Claims 4-5, 11-12, 17, 23 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 7,058,626 B1 issued to Pan et al. (hereinafter Pan) in view of Patent No.: US 6,327,590 B1 issued to Chidlovskii et al. (hereinafter Chidlovskii), and further in view of Patent No.: US 6,430,552 B1 issued to Corston-Oliver (hereinafter Corston-Oliver).

With respect to claims 4-5, Pan in view of Chidlovskii discloses a computer-readable medium as discussed in claim 1.

Pan and Chidlovskii disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Pan and Chidlovskii do not teach wherein the manager interface includes a COM (Component Object Model) interface.

However, Corston-Oliver teaches Component Object Model (COM) interface for search engine (fig. 5, col. 3, lines 62-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan in view of Chidlovskii with the teachings of Corston-Oliver by incorporating the use of a COM interface for enabling users to search and filter on certain criteria. The motivation being to retrieve data that users either search through an index data to locate the data they desire (Corston-Oliver's col. 1, lines 10-20).

With respect to claim 11, Pan teaches a computer-implemented method as discussed in claim 7.

Pan and Chidlovskii disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Pan and Chidlovskii do not teach wherein the manager interface includes a COM (Component Object Model) interface.

However, Corston-Oliver teaches Component Object Model (COM) interface for search engine (fig. 5, col. 3, lines 62-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan in view of Chidlovskii with the teachings of Corston-Oliver by incorporating the use of a COM interface for enabling users to search and filter on certain criteria. The motivation being to retrieve data that users either search through an index data to locate the data they desire (Corston-Oliver's col. 1, lines 10-20).

With respect to claim 12, Pan teaches a computer-implemented method as discussed in claim 7.

Pan teaches employing a combination of different types of search engines being registered for enabling the user to select, and translating the search query into a native format query associated with the selected search engine. Pan does not clearly teach search engine wrapper.

However, Chidlovskii teaches a wrapper to be used for transforming the query into a representation that is used by the application (col. 5, lines 8-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan with the teachings of Chidlovskii, wherein the wrapper associated with search engines or meta-search engine receiving the search query from the searcher and query translation cross a multiple,

heterogeneous search engines in the system provided therein (Chidlovskii's figs 1 and 2 and col. 4, lines 15-54 and col. 5, lines 32-42), would incorporate the use of multiple various registered search engines for enabling a user to select (Pan's figs. 2 & 10, abstract and sections 0455- 0456). The motivation being to combine search results from each search engine of a meta-search engine into a single list of ranking search results that satisfy the user's search query (chidlovskii's col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 25-30).

With respect to claim 17, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium as discussed in claim 13.

Pan and Chidlovskii disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Pan and Chidlovskii do not teach wherein the manager interface includes a COM (Component Object Model) interface.

However, Corston-Oliver teaches Component Object Model (COM) interface for search engine (fig. 5, col. 3, lines 62-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan in view of Chidlovskii with the teachings of Corston-Oliver by incorporating the use of a COM interface for enabling users to search and filter on certain criteria. The motivation being to retrieve data that users either search through an index data to locate the data they desire (Corston-Oliver's col. 1, lines 10-20).

With respect to claim 23, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium as discussed in claim 21.

Pan and Chidlovskii disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Pan and Chidlovskii do not teach wherein the manager interface includes a COM (Component Object Model) interface.

However, Corston-Oliver teaches Component Object Model (COM) interface for search engine (fig. 5, col. 3, lines 62-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan in view of Chidlovskii with the teachings of Corston-Oliver by incorporating the use of a COM interface for enabling users to search and filter on certain criteria. The motivation being to retrieve data that users either search through an index data to locate the data they desire (Corston-Oliver's col. 1, lines 10-20).

With respect to claim 30, Pan teaches a computer-readable medium as discussed in claim 29.

Pan and Chidlovskii disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Pan and Chidlovskii do not teach wherein the manager interface includes a COM (Component Object Model) interface.

However, Corston-Oliver teaches Component Object Model (COM) interface for search engine (fig. 5, col. 3, lines 62-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Pan in view of Chidlovskii with the teachings of Corston-Oliver by incorporating the use of a COM interface for enabling users to search and filter on certain criteria. The motivation being to retrieve

data that users either search through an index data to locate the data they desire (Corston-Oliver's col. 1, lines 10-20).

Contact Information

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (571) 272-4039 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV (**Written Authorization being given by Applicant (MPEP 502.03 [R-2])) or fax to (571) 273-4039 (Examiner's personal Fax No.**). The examiner can normally be reached on TUESDAY – THURSDAY from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John Breene**, can be reached on (571) 272-4107.

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